

SENATE BILL REPORT

E2SHB 1935

As of March 22, 2009

Title: An act relating to adult family homes.

Brief Description: Concerning adult family homes.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health & Human Services Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Morrell, Walsh, Cody, Orwall, Kenney, Bailey, Miloscia, Green, Kelley and Williams).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/10/09, 68-28.

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 3/23/09.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7465)

Background: Adult family homes are facilities that provide residential care and services for up to six individuals. The residents of adult family homes are typically elderly or persons with disabilities, and the homes are usually located in residential neighborhoods. The role of adult family homes in the long-term care industry has been to provide a home-like, non-institutional setting for the care of vulnerable people. In recent years, some homeowners' associations in the state have attempted to remove adult family homes from their neighborhoods through establishing restrictive covenants prohibiting them from operating in subdivisions.

As the elderly population increases, it is expected that more services to seniors will be needed in residential settings. The Legislature authorized the University of Washington, through the School of Nursing, to offer a geriatric certification and testing program for adult family home operators through a budget proviso. Currently it is not clear what the role of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) will be regarding graduates of this program.

The licensing and renewal fees for adult family homes are set in statute at \$50.

Summary of Bill: The DSHS will establish a specialty license recognizing adult family home operators who successfully complete the program at the School of Nursing. Restrictive covenants that have the effect of limiting the ability of people with disabilities to live in the

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residence of their choice, including adult family homes, are void. The \$50 licensing and renewal fees for adult family homes are deleted, and the amount will be set in the biennial operating budget.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.